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Support SB238:AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO CERTAIN ENVIRONMENT RELATED STATUTES

Dear Environment Committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB238.

I am a licensed Supervising Forest Products Harvester in the state of Connecticut and this revision directly affects my job in the Connecticut forest practices industry. I have been in this industry for over 40 years as a logger.

I am asking for your SUPPORT of sections 7,8 and 9 of SB238.

In Section 7, the proposed change would amend the statutory representation on the forest practices advisory board to INCLUDE a member from the forest products industry. This also more clearly defines board representation and appointments.

Section 8, would allow for a grace period of 60 days for an expired forest practitioner's certification without the requirement to retest for the license to be reinstated.

Section 9, would allow us to align our annual reporting with our four year license term. This section also would recognize the national Society of American Foresters (SAF) testing as an acceptable substitute for the state examination for Certified Foresters.

These changes would help existing Connecticut certified forest practitioners as well as our future generation of "woodsman". These new language changes have been introduced to the General Assembly for multiple sessions. Now is the time that the Connecticut certified forests practitioners should get their voices heard and get these changes made.

I appreciate your time and consideration to favorably look at these changes. I urge you to vote in support of voting these out of your committee and on to the House and Senate calendars for a final favorable vote.

Sincerely,
Robert Carrington
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